Zoot suit is set in the 1940s during World War II which many Hispanic and Chicano theater also centered their plays around. Many themes these types of plays centers the piece around would be racism and bigotry towards the Hispanic community, mainly the immigrants. During times of war, the government is always cracking down on immigration policies which can often lead to external, as well as internal tensions. These tensions are emphasized in Zoot Suit, mainly because it centers the idea of Hispanics (Pachucos) invading Los Angeles, and creating fear and resentment within the white community. These types of racial tensions occur quite often within minority interactions with the majority, and after witnessing these types of interactions first hand, the play write Luis Valdez started putting what he has witnessed and experience into a play. However, due to the fact that Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy had both gotten assassinated during the time he started writing it, he put it in the back burner not seeing it as an appropriate time to release the play. However, since it was produced many from the Hispanic community saw it as a homage to what they had to go through, and it only encouraged others in the Hispanic and Latin community to continue to produce Hispanic and Chicano theater, to capture what they had gone through and give something relatable to their audience.